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**PRESS RELEASE**

**NATIONWIDE SEARCH BEGINS FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
THE PORT OF BALTIMORE**

HANOVER, MD - Transportation Secretary Robert L. Flanagan announced today the initiation of a nationwide search for a new Executive Director at Maryland's Port of Baltimore. The search follows the announcement by James J. White that he intends to leave that position after six years.

"The Port of Baltimore operates on a strong foundation comprised of excellent labor, strong business partnerships, a prime geographic location and the recognition by Governor Ehrlich and the highest levels of state government that a vital port is crucial to Maryland's economy," said Secretary Flanagan. "Together, these factors guarantee a bright future for the Port. We will identify an individual with the vision and expertise to maximize all the strengths the Port of Baltimore has to offer. I thank Jim White for his leadership and all he has done for the Port and the citizens of Maryland."

The search for a new executive director will begin immediately. Secretary Flanagan will appoint a search committee to be chaired by Former Congresswoman and port advocate Helen Delich Bentley. The committee will include members from Baltimore's private sector port community. Secretary Flanagan is asking the committee to have a short list of solid candidates no later than April 15, 2005.

"Jim White is the best Executive Director the Port of Baltimore has ever had. In his six years here, he has accomplished more than any other East Coast port director. He has put Baltimore on the international maritime map," said Mrs. Bentley.

Mr. White has agreed to work with Secretary Flanagan to affect a smooth transition and both are in the processing of finalizing the terms of that understanding.

"When I accepted the position of Executive Director, I had two major goals; 1) Return stability to the Executive Director's position and 2) Long-term contracts with maritime interests. We moved from 1, 2, and 3 year contracts to 5, 10, and 20 year contracts. Mission Accomplished!" Mr. White said.

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